

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 DPW-01 IO-15

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 OIC-04 DRC-01 NIC-01 /169 W  
----- 122140

O R 021215Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3240

MFO RUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 5465

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

/KRUMJBT/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 824

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CINCUSARPAC

CONFIDENTIAL

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DIA WASHDC

CGFMFPAC

CGUSARSUPTHAI

CNO

COMNAVINTCOM  
COMSEVENTHFLT  
COMUSMACTHAI  
7/13 AF  
7TH PSYOPS  
COMUSSAG  
III MAF  
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 10598

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB  
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT - OCTOBER 2, 1973

GENERAL. 1. WHILE THE BATTLEFIELDS REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET, WITH FANK CONTINUING ITS STEADY PROGRESS IN KAMPONG CHAM, KHMER LEADETNDT IS THE UNGA WHERE A FORMAL CHALLENGE TO GKR CREDENTIALS IS EXPECTED TO MATERIALIZE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WHILE CURRENT ESTIMATES GIVE THIS CHALLENGE ONLY A SLIGHT CHANCE OF SUCCESS, DEVELOPMENTS ON THE HOME FRONT, WHERE EFFORTS ARE PRESENTLY UNDERWAY TO AVOID A POLITICAL CRISIS WHEN THE MANDATE FOR THE IN TAM EXCEPTIONAL GOVERNMENT EXPIRES ON OCTOBER 23, COULD CHANGE THE PICTURE. MEANWHILE A NEW ATTEMPT TO IMPLEMENT NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION AND ALLEVIATE THE CURRENT ACUTE FANK MANPOWER SHORTAGE HAS BEEN LAUNCHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MG THAPPANA NGINN. AND WITH PHNOM PENH STOCKS DOWN TO 11 DAYS SUPPLY, AN AIRLIFT OF KHMER RICE FROM BATTAMBANG BEGAN TODAY TO PROVIDE A SAFETY MARGIN UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF WATER-BORNE IMPORTS. POSSIBLY AS A RESULT OF VDARGENT AND/OR CHINESE UNHAPPINESS AT HIS RECENT CRITICAL COMMENTS CONCERNING OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE,SIHANOUK, IN PEKING, ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL GIVE NO MORE PERSONAL INTERVIEWS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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POLITICAL (INTERNAL) . 2. SPURRED BY THE APPROACHING OCTOBER 23 EXPIRATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RULE BY DECREE, POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN PHNOM PENH HAS BEGUN TO QUICKEN. IN TAM, WHOSE DISSATISFACTION WITH THE CURRENT BALANCE OF FORCES IS WELL KNOWN, HAS ONCE AGAIN THREATENED TO RESIGN BOTH AS PRIME MINISTER AND FROM THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL. CHENG HENG AND SIRIK MATAK ARE ATTEMPTING TO PERSUADE HIM TO REMAIN IN THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL AND NOT TO PRECIPITATE A GOVERNMENT CRISIS UNTIL AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULA FOR THE SUCCESSION HAS BEEN FOUND. THE SOCIO-REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THIS LATTER MATTER FOR SEVERAL MONTHS WITHOUT NOTABLE RESULT. THE SUCCESSION PROBLEM IS COMPLICATED BY THE

QUESTION OF THE PARLIAMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN IN VIRTUAL RECESS FOR 6 MONTHS BUT WHICH NOW WISHES TO RESUME A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS. LON NOL HAS FLOATED A PROPOSAL TO REACTIVATE PARLIAMENT WITH LESS THAN ITS FULL POWERS, BUT HAS NOT OBTAINED AGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE.

3. ANOTHER DELICATE MATTER IS THE PROBLEM OF CHOOSING A NEW PRIME MINISTER WHO HAS THE SUPPORT OF BOTH THE SOCIO-REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICANS AND WHO IS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING REASONABLY STRONG LEADERSHIP. SO FAR ONLY TWO CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY PROPOSED: HO TONG LIP, AN OBSCURE OFFICIAL OF THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY, AND MG SAK SUTSAKHAN. ALTHOUGH THE LATTER ENJOYS CONSIDERABLE RESPECT, APPOINTMENT OF A MILITARY MAN AS PRIME MINISTER AT THIS POINT WOULD VERY LIKELY AGGRAVATE THE ALREADY SERIOUS TENSIONS BETWEEN THE CIVILIAN AND MILITARY BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT.

4. PRESIDENT LON NOL HAS NAMED PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER MG THAPPANA NGINN TO HEAD AN INTERMINISTERIAL GROUP WHICH WILL OVERSEE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSCRIPTION AND RECRUITMENT PROGRAMS. THAPPANA NGINN IS ALREADY HARD AT WORK ON HIS NEW JOB AND HAS PRODUCED A PLAN FOR ACTION WHICH WILL BE KICKED OFF ON OCTOBER 3 WITH AN ADDRESS TO THE NATION BY THE MARSHAL. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AN INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN TO EXPLAIN THE NEED FOR CONSCRIPTION TO THE POPULATION AND A NEW CENSUS OF ELIGIBLE MALES BETWEEN AGES OF 18 AND 35. THE REVIEW BOARD WILL BEGIN TO CALL UP DRAFTEES IN THE LATTER HALF OF THE MONTH. THIS OVER-CONFIDENTIAL

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ALL EFFORT IS DESIGNED TO PRODUCE AT LEAST 25,000 NEW SOLDIERS FOR THE GENERAL RESERVE.

5. MARSHAL LON NOL MADE A RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON OCTOBER 1 CONDEMNING THE EXPANSIONIST AIMS OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS AGAINST CAMBODIA, DESCRIBING THE SLAUGHTER OF BEDRIDDEN HOSPITAL PATIENTS IN KAMPONG CHAM BY THE ENEMY, REITERATING THE 6 POINT GKR PEACE PROPOSAL, AND APPEALING FOR SUPPORT FROM PEACE-LOVING PEOPLES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. ALTHOUGH DELIVERED TO THE KHMER PEOPLE THE SPEECH WAS AIMED PRINCIPALLY AT INTERNATIONAL OPINION ON THE EVE OF THE EXPECTED CHALLENGE TOSDKR CREDENTIALS IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (SEE POLITICAL-EXTERNAL BELOW).

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL). 6. IT NOW SEEMS CERTAIN THAT A FORMAL EFFORT WILL BE MADE BY SIHANOUK SUPPORTERS IN THE UNGA TO CHALLENGE THE GKR RIGHT TO OCCUPY  
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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 DPW-01 IO-15

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 OIC-04 DRC-01 NIC-01 /169 W

----- 122327

O R #021215Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3241

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

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CINCUSARPAC

DIA WASHDC

CGFMFPAC

CGUSARSUPTHAI

CNO

COMNAVINTCOM

COMSEVENTHFLT

COMUSMACTHAI

7/13 AF

7TH PSYOPS

COMUSSAG  
III MAF  
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 10598

GRUNK/FUNK. 9. SIHANOUK MADE OVERTURES TO A SLOWLY WARMING THAILAND IN THE THIRD INSTALLMENT, A BANGKOK POST EXCLUSIVE, OF T.D. ALLMAN'S ALGIERS INTERVIEW. THE PRINCE NOTED THAT BOTH COUNTRIES ARE BUDDHIST AND MONARCHIST AND SAID THAT HIS FORCES DO NOT PLAN TO EXPORT THEIR REVOLUTION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT CAMBODIA HAS CHOSEN NON-ALIGNMENT, NEUTRALITY AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, WILL NOT THREATEN HER NEIGHBORS AND THAT KHMER TERRITORY HAS NEVER BEEN USED AGAINST THAILAND. IN A MILD THREAT HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH ALWAYS WILLING TO BE FRIENDS, HE WOULD NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ANY COUNTRY WHICH FAILS TO RECOGNIZE GRUNK BEFORE VICTORY. THE BANGKOK POST SUBSEQUENTLY QUOTED A THAI MINISTER AS SAYING THAT THE THAI HAVE NOTHING AGAINST PRINCE SIHANOUK AND, ALTHOUGH NOW RECOGNIZING LON NOL, WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE FRIENDLY TIES WITH ANY GOVERNMENT SET UP AFTER A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA. THE POST CLAIMED THAT THE THAI PAID QUEEN KOSSAMAK'S MEDICAL EXPENSES AND INVITED SIHANOUK'S MOTHER TO VISIT THAILAND FOR TREATMENT.

10. IN THE ALLMAN ARTICLE SIHANOUK DESCRIBED INDONESIAN, MALAYSIAN AND SINGAPORE VOTES (SIC) AGAINST HIM IN ALGIERS AS GRATUITOUS INSULTS AND PROFESSED HIMSELF DISTRESSED AT SUHARTO'S AND LEE KUAN YEW'S ATTITUDES, NOTING THAT SUHARTO WAS ROYALLY WELCOMED IN PHNOM PENH AND LEE KUAN YEW WAS A CLOSE FRIEND.  
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11. CORRESPONDENTS IN PEKING REPORT THAT SIHANOUK INFORMED THEM HE WILL NO LONGER GIVE INTERVIEWS AND HIS FUTURE STATEMENTS WILL BE WRITTEN. HE ATTRIBUTED HIS DECISION TO FREQUENT PRESS MISQUOTES. (COMMENT: THE PRINCE MAY HAVE BEEN MUZZLED BY THE KHMER COMMUNISTS AND/OR THE CHINESE AND VIETNAMESE WHO ARE PERHAPS UNHAPPY AT SIHANOUK'S RECENT FRANKNESS ABOUT KHMER ROUGE WEAKNESS AND DIFFERENCES WITH THE PRC AND DRV.)

12. PEKING SUPPORT FOR GRUNK/FUNK REMAINS HIGH. USLO PEKING NOTES GRUNK DIGNITARIES HAD POSITIONS OF HONOR AT AIRPORT CEREMONIES FOR POMPIDOU AND EGYPT TN VP SHAFEI, AND PENN NOUTH AND SARIN CHHAK WERE RANKED SECOND ONLY TO THE EGYPTIAN GUEST OF HONOR AT BOTH CHINESE BANQUETS FOR HIM. THE CHINESE REPORTEDLY SPENT CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TRYING TO PERSUADE POMPIDOU TO RECOGNIZE SIHANOUK CLAIMING THAT ONLY INCREASED FRENCH INFLUENCE WITH SIHANOUK'S FORCES HELD OUT HOPE FOR A TRULY NEUTRAL CAMBODIA. IF THE RUSSIANS RECOGNIZED FIRST, SIHANOUK WOULD LOSE OUT TO THE KHMER

ROUGE, THE CHINESE REPORTEDLY ARGUED.

GRUNK/FUNK (EXTERNAL). 13. SIHANOUK CABLED UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM FROM ALGIERS ASKING THAT THE QUESTION OF RESTORING GRUNK'S RIGHTS BE PUT ON THE UNGA AGENDA. THE SYG REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT FEEL IT PROPER FOR HIM TO PLACE SUCH AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA BECAUSE IT IS A QUESTION PROPERLY BELONGING TO MEMBER STATES AND IMPORTANT DELIVERATIVE ORGANS. HE INDICATED SUCH AN ACTION COULD BE PROPOSED BY A MEMBER STATE OR GROUP OF MEMBERS, AND COULD COME BEFORE THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

14. ON SEPTEMBER 24, THE GRUNK FOREIGN MINISTRY FIRED THE OPENING GUN IN THEIR CAMPAIGN TO WREST CAMBODIA'S UN SEAT FROM THE GKR. AKI'S REPORT OF THE STATEMENT NOTED THAT THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE DEMANDED AN END TO USG INTERFERENCE IN KHMER INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND EXTENDED THAT REQUIREMENT TO ALL COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE STATEMENT THEN ASSERTED THAT THE UN IS NOT ENTITLED TO DISCUSS THE KHMER PROBLEM WITH A VIEW TO SOLVING IT AND DEMANDED THAT GRUNK'S RIGHTS AT THE UN BE RESTORED BY EXPELLING THE GKR.

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15. ACCORDING TO MELBOURNE RADIO, AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS TRADE CAIRNS ARRANGED TO TALK WITH SIHANOUK DURING THE MINISTER'S RECENT VISIT TO PEKING.

16. SIHANOUK GREETED THE "INDEPENDENCE" OF GUINEA-BISSAU WITH RECOGNITION AND BEST WISHES.

ECONOMIC. 17. ON OCTOBER 1 PHNOM PENH HAD ABOUT 11 DAYS SUPPLY OF RICE. ONE RICE SHIP FROM THAILAND WITH APPROXIMATELY 3 DAYS SUPPLY IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN PHNOM PENH THIS WEEK AND ADDITIONAL THAI RICE IS EXPECTED THE WEEK AFTER. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A MEAGRE SAFETY MARGIN A RICE AIRLIFT IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON OCTOBER 2 TO TRANSPORT RICE FROM BATTAMBANG TO PHNOM PENH.

18. ON SEPTEMBER 29 THE U.S. AND THE GKR SIGNED AGREEMENTS TOTALLING \$5 MILLION. \$3 MILLION WAS ADDED TO THE CIP PROGRAM AND \$2 MILLION REPRESENTED A USG CONTRIBUTION TO THE EXCHANGE SUPPORT FUND.

MILITARY. 19. AT KOMPONG CHAM, FANK MADE STEADY PROGRESS IN EXPANDING THE CITY'S OUTER DEFENSE PERIMETER AGAINST LIGHT TO MODERATE ENEMY RESISTANCE. THE TEXTILE FACTORY, UNDER INSURGENT CONTROL SINCE SEPTEMBER 4, WAS REOCCUPIED SEPTEMBER 30. ONLY TWO WAREHOUSES WERE DESTROYED. AFTER CONSOLIDATING THEIR DEFENSES, PLANS ARE TO LINKUP WITH FRIENDLY ELEMENTS AT THE AIRFIELD, WHICH CONTINUES TO RECEIVE SPORADIC ATTACKS BY FIRE AND GROUND PROBES. CUMMULATIVE CASUALTIES REPORTED BY THE FANK J-2 FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 17 TO OCTOBER 1 SHOW

344 ENEMY KILLED, 4 CAPTURED. FRIENDLY LOSSES ARE LISTED  
AS 250 KILLED AND NEARLY 1,500 WOUNDED.

20. IN THE CAPITAL REGION, ELEMENTS OF THE FIRST AND THIRD  
DIVISIONS COUNTERATTACKED OCTOBER 1 TO RETAKE ENEMY-HELD  
POSITIONS ALONG RTE. 2 AND STEM INSURGENT ADVANCES TOWARD  
THE PREK THNAOT RIVER SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH. TO THE WEST,  
STEPPED-UP ENEMY INITIATIVES IN THE AREA BETWEEN ROUTES  
2 AND 3 CAUSED FANK TO ABANDON A POSITION NEAR KOMPONG  
KANTUOT. THE ATTACKS PROBABLY SEEK TO PROBE FOR WEAKNESSES  
IN PHNOM PENH'S SOUTHERN DEFENSE LINE WHICH PARALLELS THE  
PREK THNAOT RIVER.  
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21. NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL, THE ISOLATED GARRISON AT  
VIHEAR SUOR REMAINS SURROUNDED AND THE ENEMY CONTINUES TO  
BLOCK RELIEVEING FORCES. THE ENEMY ALSO INCREASED PRESSURE  
ON POSITIONS ALONG THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG RIVER  
NORTHWEST OF VIHEAR SUOR.

22. ROUTES 4 AND 5 REMAIN CLOSED. CLEARING OPERATIONS  
IN THE SEGMENTS NOW CLOSED HAVE MADE NO PROGRESS.  
ENDERS

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
MFO RUMTBK BANGKOK  
CANBERRA  
KRUMJBT JAKARTA  
HONG KONG  
KUALA LUMPUR  
LONDON



MANILA  
MOSCOW  
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RANGOON  
SAIGON  
SEOUL  
SINGAPORE  
USIA  
TOKYO  
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VIENTIANE  
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CAN THO  
BIEN HOA  
TAIPEI  
CINCPAC  
CINCPACFLT  
CINCUSARPAC  
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